

**CLAIMS:**

What is claimed is:

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1. A method in a data processing system for handling a situation, the method comprising:

responsive to detecting a situation, applying an  
10 aging function to the situation; and  
presenting alerts regarding the situation based on  
the aging function.

15 2. The method of claim 1, wherein the aging function is  
a decay function.

3. The method of claim 1, wherein the aging function  
includes a user settable threshold.

20 4. The method of claim 1, wherein the aging function is  
an increasing time function.

25 5. The method of claim 4, wherein the increasing time  
function is one of a linear function or an exponential  
function.

6. The method of claim 1, wherein the aging function is  
a decreasing function.

30 7. The method of claim 6, wherein the decreasing  
function is a half-life function.

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8. The method of claim 1, wherein the presenting step comprises:

displaying the alert on a console.

5 9. The method of claim 1, wherein the situation is one  
of a denial of server, a suspicious Web server request,  
or an unauthorized access of a server.

10. 10. A method in a data processing system for handling a  
situation, the method comprising:

monitoring for events;

15 responsive to detecting an event, which triggers a  
situation, applying an aging function to the situation,  
wherein the aging function is used to identify a severity  
of the situation; and

presenting an alert for the situation based on the  
severity of the situation identified by the aging  
function.

20 11. The method of claim 10, wherein the situation  
includes a set of events.

12. The method of claim 11, wherein the set of events  
form a denial of service attack.

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13. A data processing system comprising:

a bus system;

a communications unit connected to the bus system;

30 a memory connected to the bus system, wherein the  
memory includes a set of instructions; and

a processing unit connected to the bus system, wherein the processing unit executes the set of instructions to apply an aging function to the situation in response to detecting a situation; and present alerts 5 regarding the situation based on the aging function.

14. A data processing system for handling a situation, the data processing system comprising:

applying means, responsive to detecting a situation, 10 for applying an aging function to the situation; and presenting means for presenting alerts regarding the situation based on the aging function.

15. The data processing system of claim 14, wherein the 15 aging function is a decay function.

16. The data processing system of claim 14, wherein the aging function includes a user settable threshold.

20 17. The data processing system of claim 14, wherein the aging function is an increasing time function.

18. The data processing system of claim 17, wherein the increasing time function is one of a linear function or 25 an exponential function.

19. The data processing system of claim 14, wherein the aging function is a decreasing function.

30 20. The data processing system of claim 19, wherein the decreasing function is a half-life function.

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21. The data processing system of claim 14, wherein the presenting means comprises:

means for displaying the alert on a console.

5 22. The data processing system of claim 14, wherein the situation is one of a denial of server, a suspicious Web server request, or an unauthorized access of a server.

10 23. A computer program product in a computer readable medium for handling a situation, the computer program product comprising:

first instructions, responsive to detecting a situation, for applying an aging function to the situation; and

15 second instructions for presenting alerts regarding the situation based on the aging function.

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